

RECOGNIZING VFW POST 7814

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of the Thomas-Fields Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7814, which was founded on July 11, 1946.

When African-American veterans of World War II returned to their homes in the Staunton-Augusta area, they were, unfortunately, excluded from their local VFW Post. Following their denied admittance, a group of 42 veterans then applied for a charter to organize their own post, which would carry the namesakes of Charles Thomas and Glenwood Fields, two African Americans from Staunton who died while serving their country in World War II.

Since its formation, the Thomas-Fields Post has been an active civic organization in the African-American community of Staunton and Augusta County, as well as playing an active and significant role in local area veterans' activities.

While the post welcomes all veterans, it continues to highlight the heritage of African-American and minority veterans who have served our Nation.

Recently, Post 7814 was recognized as a Meritorious Post by the State VFW Federation for its outstanding work over the last 5 years and was also named an All-American Post by the National VFW Council for the first time in its history.

The Thomas-Fields VFW Post is to be commended for its work in our community and their efforts to aid those who served. I congratulate them on this historic milestone and wish them another successful 75 years.

□ 1100

SUPPORT THE PEOPLE OF CUBA

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my support for the Cuban people who have taken to the streets to protest the oppressive Communist regime there, a regime that has stripped them of their basic human rights.

Since its inception 62 years ago, the Communist Party has caused immeasurable harm and created unbearable conditions in Cuba.

Cuba's people want freedom. They want to provide for their families and know that their kids will be safe and healthy—and Cuba is not that place, and it hasn't been that place for far too long.

Right now, its people are facing widespread power outages, the most severe food shortage since the 1990s and inflation rates nearing 500 percent.

In an effort to contain the truth about what is really going on, the government cut off its citizens' access to the internet to silence the dissent.

Instead of trying to address the issues plaguing the island nation, they have, instead, decided to suppress those voicing concern. Since the protest began, more than 100 people have been

detained or have gone missing, including artists, peace activists, and priests. It should be no surprise that Cubans are marching in the streets demanding their rights.

We have all seen the images of people waving American flags and fleeing in makeshift boats overflowing with folks willing to risk their lives to experience freedom. They want what we are so blessed to have, and, yet, there is a segment of our society bent on pushing the United States toward the failed notion of communism and socialism. It is mind-boggling.

We must stand strongly for freedom, stand firmly with the people, and stand boldly with a free Cuba.

DEFENDING THE UNBORN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PFLUGER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in defense of the precious lives of our unborn. Last week, my colleagues in the Appropriations Committee voted to authorize taxpayer-funded abortions by passing a spending bill that omits the Hyde amendment.

The Hyde amendment prohibits taxpayer dollars from being used to fund abortions and it has saved an estimated 2.5 million lives. It has been included in every appropriations package since 1976 until now. The move to eliminate Hyde is another blatant attack on the sanctity of life, following this administration's budget proposal that has also failed to include the Hyde amendment and other pro-life policies in Federal programs.

This is a crucial moment for all of us to uphold the inherent dignity of human life. Every unborn child should have the right to life. There are few greater priorities. I will continue to do everything in my power to protect the vulnerable, to safeguard taxpayer consciences, and to preserve the sanctity of life. We must protect the Hyde amendment.

LIBERTY FOR CUBA

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to advocate for liberty, for freedom. For over 60 years, the Cuban people have been oppressed by the worst impulses of a brutal regime and the failed promises of Communist propaganda. What we are seeing today is those people are saying "enough is enough." The Cuban people are shouting "libertad" for freedom, waving American flags and rising up to finally demand independence and autonomy over their own lives.

Cuba is showing us in real time. In fact, they are showing the world in real time that massive government control over society simply does not work, and how its demise quickly spirals into deadly conditions of poverty, starvation, and hopelessness.

I recently had the chance to speak to a Cuban American and a Cuban. Their stories are horrific about the atrocities that their own government is using,

the violence, that they are using to control the society.

This is causing enough desperation that Cubans will stare down their oppressors in the streets. They will risk their lives, crossing treacherous waters on homemade rafts to reach the shores of America, the shores of freedom.

The truth is clear: The United States remains the beacon of freedom and democracy around the world. We must do everything in our power to keep it that way and valiantly support liberty at home and abroad.

FLEEING OF TEXAS DEMOCRATS

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express disappointment in the dereliction of duty of Texas Democrats who last week in the State legislature decided to flee the State to keep the Texas House from taking any action during the special session.

This stunt, complete with private jets and plenty of congratulatory media coverage, slows the passage of initiatives including: family violence prevention, property tax relief; support for our teachers; and a widely supported bill to strengthen election integrity.

The majority of Texans support safeguarding our elections. Unfortunately, colleagues in the Texas House are peddling lies about the election integrity bill. In reality, this measure merely disbands COVID-19 voting protocols that had never been used prior to 2020, while creating a more secure voting process.

Showing ID, proving who you are in a State and Federal Government election allows thousands of people to enter illegally every single day, and ending voting at 4 o'clock in the morning. It is time for the media and the Washington elites who are cheering on this charade to see it for what it really is: political theater. Texans deserve better.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 4 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. BROWNLEY) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Holy God, with confidence, we approach Your throne of grace, praying for Your protection over us this day. Deliver us from all that seeks to undo our noble responsibilities.

Save us from our adversaries who attempt to thwart our best efforts, whose